New guidelines for private air taxi operators

4924. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised new guidelines for private air taxi operators (ATOs) for exercising control over foreign aircraft leased by the owners;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether Government have laid down special norms for taxi operators for crew members and pilots to fulfil the requirements for control of airworthiness and operational aspects of such aircraft;

(d) whether the new guidelines would be binding on all the foreign aircraft taken on lease and engaged in public transport operations by Indian operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and time-limit framed by Government to implement the new guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are indicated in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 96].

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The guidelines are applicable with immediate effect

Request for conversion into scheduled private airline by ATO

4925. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Air Taxi Operators have sought permission from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for conversion into scheduled private airlines;

(b) whether these private operators have fulfilled the basic guidance laid down by DGCA; and

(c) what is the decision of Government on their request ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Three applications for grant of permit to operate scheduled air transport services have been received.

(b) and (c) The applications are being processed in the light of prescribed norms as per Civil Aviation Requirements on the subject.

Monitoring the working of the Star Hotels

4926. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to monitor the working of star hotels, in view of the complaints from customers;

(b) what is the nature of complaints received by Government from tourists and other occupants of these hotels; and

(c) how monitoring is proposed to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Government classifies star hotels under a voluntary scheme. To ensure that these hotels continue to maintain the standards and services as per prescribed guidelines, they are required to seek reclassification every three years. Complaints relate to quality of service, tariff etc. In case of any complaint the matter is takenup with the hotel concerned. Where necessary, surprise checks are also conducted.